lity of iodised salt marketed in re. mote areas of UP and other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SIL-VERA): (a) and (b) The report suggests effective enforcement of ban on sale of non-iodised salt, regular testing of salt at the production level, proper arrangements for storage of iodised salt, movement of iodised salt in covered railway wagons and strengthening of public awareness efforts.

All these issues have already been duly covered in the National Iodine Dificieney Disorders Central Program., me.

Report of National Development Council about population

2842. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the do cument presented at the 43rd Nation al Development Council meeting has mentioned aboul. the depressing demo graphic trends in India with latest census figures revealing only a mar. ginal decline in the rate of popula tion growth of 0.11 per cent in the last two decades;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified any short comings in its family planning programmes as commented by a Delhi based womes's group during a meet at RIO recently that the Indian Government have ig nored to lay emphasis on women's health and literacy as prime requi sites for a meaningful Family Plan ning Programme; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Gov ernment are intending to introduce a series of disincentive measures one to limit access to Central Government Health Scheme for those with 2 child ren or less and the other to deny i employment opportunities to those who marry below the age of 18?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE! MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SIL-VERA): (a) The average annual exponential rate of growth of population has declined, for the first time after independence, to 2.14 per cent in the decade 1981—91 from 2.22 per cent in 1971—1981

(b) Programmes have been designed recognising the linkage between female literacy, women's reproductive health and fertility.

(c) The entire question of incen-tives/disincentives is under the consi. deration of Government.

Setting up of a Cancer Hospital in PGI Chandigarh

2843. SHRI S. S. SURJEWALA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government propose to start a Cancer Treatment Centre in PGI at Chandigarh; if so, the details may be stated; if not, whether Government are aware that there is no hospital undertaking the treatment of cancer in the North-Western States of Haryana, Punjab. Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Rajasthan; and

Co) whether Government are also aware that overwhelming majority being poor, one cannot afford to take the patients either to Bombay or Delhi for treatment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. C. SIL-VRA): (a) and (b) Facilities for treatment of cancer are already available in PGIMER, Chandigarh.